



Friday
October 22,
2010

Weekly Views

Henryville Correctional Facility (HCF) hosted a "Health Exercise" with multiple State and Federal agencies, including Indiana State Health District #9, Homeland Security, the National Guard and the Monroe Township Fire Department. For the scenario, an offender at HCF received a piece of legal mail that contained white powder. The powder was tested by the National Guard and found positive for anthrax. A Point of Distribution was then set up by the Health Department and medicine was dispensed. It was a good training exercise for all and helped staff think through a critical situation.

PEN Products re-entry efforts were highlighted during regional three day training for Correctional Industries staff from across the country. The training, sponsored through a cooperative agreement with the National Institute of Corrections, was held in Nashville, Tennessee. Doug Evans and Lisa Williams were two of the five trainers that facilitated the three day sessions. The training focused on enhancing re-entry in the everyday Correctional Industries environment.

Madison Correctional Facility staff and offenders wore pink ribbons and collected \$275 in support of breast cancer awareness.

Miami Correctional Facility (MCF) came to the aid of the American Red Cross by holding an Emergency Blood Drive on site with the Blood Mobile. Seven MCF employees volunteered to donate and five units were collected.

Ball State University Assistant Basketball Coach Mitch Gilliam and players began the Cardinal Care Mentor program at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility. 16 offenders will be participating in the program.

In recognition of National Recovery Month, Westville's Therapeutic Community (TC) presented an afternoon of great entertainment. Staff and TC Offenders performed skits, readings and music. The celebration festivities ended with the facility's band, "Times and Tunes," performing the music rendition of "Lean on Me," with all 436 TC offenders joining in.

The word is "success" in judging the first ever Wabash Valley/SECC Spelling Bee! Team Captain James Basinger and Co-Captain Chief Dan Ronay squared off against Team Edwin Buss with words provided by Jeff Foxworthy's Redneck Dictionary 2. When the dust settled Judges Dick Brown and Jack Hendrix (WVCF Assistant Superintendents) determined Team Buss ruled the day, correctly spelling 'queasy' in a tie breaker. Funds raised benefit the 2010-2011 SECC Campaign!

The Covenant Choir came to the Indiana State Prison to be part of the General Christian worship services. Their renditions of "The Bible Says...", "I Wonder If You Know Him Today?," "Our God, He Is Alive," and numerous other spiritual songs were very much appreciated by the Chapels full of residents.

Reporter James Schlesinger and Planning and Development Producer Shoshanah Wofson with the CBS News Program "48 Hours Mystery" visited the Pendleton Correctional Facility to follow up on a story concerning an offender.

As part of their examination of the American judicial system, a group of Ukrainian judicial workers visited the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF) where they met with IREF executive staff and were given a brief overview of the facility and its case management, vocational and re-entry processes.

Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility held a graduation ceremony for 20 students who have earned their GED through the facility's Vantage Pointe Learning Center; one student earned an honors diploma. The facility's school is accredited through the NCA CASI Advance Education and offers regular high school credit classes as well as GED education and testing. Thus far in fiscal year of 2010-2011 the school has graduated 55 students through the program. Of the 55 graduates 2 of those obtained honors diplomas. Keynote speaker for the event was State Representative Rich McClain.

Henryville Correctional Facility held an SECC fundraiser for the Indiana Correctional Peace Officer Fund. A "Dunk Tank" was available for one dollar a throw. Superintendent Chapman and two Shift Supervisors volunteered to man the "Wet Seat." Grilled food was also sold and \$270 was raised.

Wabash Valley and Pendleton Correctional Facilities both hosted Job Fairs. Wabash Valley is seeking to fill 28 open Correctional Officer positions, and Pendleton attracted 34 job applicants. ARAMARK was also on hand, tempting job seekers with cookies and 8 open slots.